

HISTORICAL HOUSES

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Ezra Weston, II Cow Barn, Circa 1809

In 1809 Ezra Weston, Jr., also known as "King Caesar," built his home on Powder Point. The estate became the center of his prosperous shipbuilding industry. Several outbuildings cropped up on King Caesar's 100 acres including a ropewalk, a horse barn, a blacksmith shop, warehouses, a carpenter shop and a cow barn. Most of the outbuildings associated with King Caesar's farming activities have since been converted into residences, and the Cow Barn is no exception.



The Cow Barn was rectangular, built c. 1809, measured about 28 by 35 feet. Originally, it stood about 180 feet to the rear of the King Caesar House. It served its purpose for two generations of Westons and was purchased, along with the rest of the estate, by Frederick Knapp in 1886. The site of King Caesar's industry was then converted by the Knapp family into the Powder Point School for Boys. The Cow Barn became the gymnasium for the school. It did not become a dwelling until 1930 when Helen McCormack bought the structure described as a "gymnasium" and converted it into a cottage.

Several early maps clearly show the position of the Cow Barn in relation to the other outbuildings of King Caesar's estate. Thus the Barn's identity is clear, however the date of its construction cannot be precisely identified. It seems likely that the Cow Barn and other outbuildings were constructed at the same time as King Caesar's new home.

According to researcher Bob Dente, "The construction of the barn is first rate and indicative of the same quality and craftsmanship that Ezra Weston insisted on in his main house. I believe the barn was built coincidentally with the house or very soon thereafter...King Caesar had the money and available manpower to get right at it!"

Anita and Paul Haffey purchased the property in 1976. In 1982, the Haffeyes turned and moved the cottage to its present location parallel to Moulton Road. This home, which received a dateboard from the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society last summer, has the interesting distinction of being the second building in Duxbury to bear the name Ezra Weston, II.

The second in a series of articles on houses which have received dateboards from the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society in the past year.



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